

Bernards Heath Junior School



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Mobile Phones in School

Dear Parents,

I have been listening to a number of parents and children on the subject of mobile phones at school. Until now we have said that children must not bring their phones to school; this was following an incident last year, where images were taken of children in school, then posted on the internet that evening, causing upset to some children and parents. All without the knowledge or consent of the school. Obviously this is not acceptable, leading us to the conclusion that the children should not be allowed to have their phones in school.

However, I know that some of our Yr 5 and 6 children walk home from school on their own, and naturally parents want the security of knowing their child can speak with them if needed. Many of us are parents too, and we understand this position with our own children.

I need to strike a balance between the children's safety in school, their safety when walking home alone, and the risks associated with having valuable property in school giving the children access (with smart phones) to the internet, images and sadly, in some cases, the potential temptation to steal, which creates another issue entirely.

So, taking into account all angles, and having consulted staff and other Primary Headteachers in St Albans, we are introducing the following policy;

- No child in Yrs 3 and 4 is allowed a mobile phone in school. If found they will be confiscated awaiting collection by parents
- If there are exceptional reasons for a child to need to have their mobile phone in school, in Yrs 5 and 6 only, then this will be allowed
- In Yrs 5 and 6 parents must explain their child's need to have their phone in school, if this is not genuine, the phone will be confiscated, awaiting collection by parents
- If a child in Yrs 5 and 6 brings a phone to school, the phone must be given to their teacher at the beginning of the day and collected at the end of the day. However, this is on the understanding that neither teachers nor the school accept responsibility for loss or damage to the phone. If parents do not accept this caveat, then the phone cannot be allowed in school.
- If any inappropriate material is found on the phone it will be confiscated immediately; likewise if the phone is used in school, it will be confiscated.
- The children will not be allowed to make or receive calls or texts from their mobiles in school. They are entirely for use outside of school, on the way home.

Children needing to carry a mobile phone to school will apply to their teacher for a consent letter. This must be signed by the parent, stating the reason for needing to carry a phone. Parents must also accept that the school bears no responsibility for loss, damage or theft.

We are not promoting the idea of children carrying phones to school. We would prefer them not to be brought to school and parents must have a genuine and valid reason for making this request.

Yours sincerely

Sian Kilpatrick
Headteacher



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Request for permission for child to bring a mobile phone to school

- Name of Child;
- Name of parent requesting consent;
- Reason for child needing to bring a phone to school;
- Does your child walk home unaccompanied by an adult?
- Where do they have to walk to?
- **I understand that the phone might be confiscated awaiting my collection from the school if it is used inappropriately in school.**
- **I accept that the school does not accept responsibility for my child's phone in the case of loss, damage or theft.**

Signed-----

Date-----